

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982 - 1983

12 March 1982

DOCUMENT 1-15/82

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr COUSTE and Mr de la MALENE

on behalf of the Group of European Progressive
Democrats

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the extension of the Multifibre Arrangement
and the renegotiation of bilateral agreements

PE 77.776

- having regard to the Treaty of Rome, and in particular Article 113 thereof,
 - having regard to its resolution of 7 April 1981¹,
 - having regard to the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Welsh and others²,
 - having regard to the protocol extending the Multifibre Arrangement signed in Geneva on 22 December 1981,
 - having regard to the decisions taken by the Council of Ministers on textile trade policy at its meeting on 25 February 1982,
 - pointing out that during 1981 there was a further deterioration in the situation of the Community's clothing and textiles industries: decline in production, stagnation of consumption and substantial losses of jobs, at a time when the unfavourable economic situation in the Community does not permit the losses in this industry to be offset by the creation of jobs in other sectors,
 - stressing, furthermore, the need to safeguard the textile/clothing industry as a whole, which still occupies an important position in the industrial life of the Community, employing as it does 9.6% of all workers in the manufacturing industries and accounting for 6.4% of the value added of these industries,
1. Regrets that the internal overall ceilings defined by the Council for the eight categories of most sensitive products do not represent maximum annual import capacities for the Community, because of the possibility of quantitative adjustment of the OPT component included therein;
 2. Regrets that the Council has not reviewed the quota concept, by defining the annual quota on the basis of the levels reached by imports during the previous year;
 3. Fears that the Council's extremely vague and arbitrary interpretation of the anti-surge clause as provided in MFA III might lead to serious difficulties of implementation;
 4. Regrets that no solution has been found for the problem of 'reciprocity' of access to the markets of certain third countries undergoing rapid industrialization in Latin America and Asia, which impose prohibitive customs duties of up to 100 to 200%;
 5. Also regrets that no solution has yet been found to make the price clause applicable in the agreements with state-trading countries;
 6. Urges the Council to ensure that the provisions laid down in MFA III are applied scrupulously and effectively both during the renegotiation of bilateral agreements and in the administration of those agreements;
 7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission of the European Communities and to the Director-General of GATT.

¹ OJ No. C 101, 4.5.81, pages 29 to 31

² OJ No. C 327, 14.12.81, pages 62 and 63